IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Gary E. FOUT, et al.

Art Unit: Examiner:

Serial No.: Filed:

November 24, 2003

Title:

METHOD AND APPPARATUS FOR SEPARATING

HYDROCARBONS FROM MATERIAL

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application as follows and consider the included remarks.